

Preservation of Democracy, Defense of Liberty for Defense of Democracy, Defense of Liberty

"Employers Must Sign Agreements With Help," Supreme Court Decides

Court Argued Experience Has Shown That Refusal to Sign Agreements After Having Arrived At Oral Understanding Has Been A Not Infrequent Means of Frustrating Bargaining Process Through Refusal to Recognize Labor as A Party to It—"It Is A Sound and Constructive Decision," Said President Green.

The United States Supreme Court upheld the National Labor Relations Board's decision in the H. J. Heinz Co. case, where the company was required to sign a written agreement with a union after both sides had arrived at an oral understanding.

"We regard it as a sound and constructive decision," said President William Green of the A. F. of L. The Supreme Court upheld the action of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in directing the company to sign an agreement with an affiliate of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen (A. F. of L.).

The court favored the lower court and the Labor Board on all three points involved in the Heinz case. These were:

"Whether the petitioner had interfered with the formation and or-

ganization of the Heinz Employees' Association, a plant labor organization; 2. Whether the NLRB had exceeded its power in ordering the disestablishment of a labor union in the organization of which the company had interfered; 3. Whether the company's refusal to sign a written agreement concerning wages, hours and working conditions constituted a refusal to bargain collectively.

Discussing the company's refusal to sign a written agreement, the court said:

"It is conceded that although petitioner has reached an agreement with the union concerning wages, hours and working conditions of the employees, it has nevertheless refused to sign a contract."

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Construction of Extensive Dams Planned by Great Northern Paper Co. to Increase Production Facilities

(Special to The Labor News)

East Millicent, Me., Jan. 13.—An announcement has recently been made by the Great Northern Paper Company that they will soon begin construction of two dams on the upper waters of the East Branch about 40 miles above Midway where the East and West Branches meet to form the Penobscot River. The first of these two dams will likely be built on Totes Stream, which is the outlet of a small lake of the same name and which flows into Mattagami Lake, known locally as Grand Lake. It will be a small dam, only about 15 feet high and 100 feet long. The other will be much higher, about 100 feet high and 100 feet long. This one is to be built at the foot of Grand Island, where the gorge through which flows the East Branch. While this branch of the Penobscot is only 40 miles long, it drains an area of more than 100 square miles or about as large as the State of Rhode Island. The two dams will create an artificial lake containing over five billion cubic feet or about 75 billion gallons of water.

It is understood here that the Bangor Hydro-Electric Company is also interested in the construction of these dams. The company has been conducting extensive pulp-mill operations at each. If those rumors are correct, it should mean a reduction in the present rates for their customers. The Great Northern, in past years, has conducted extensive pulp-mill operations in this section, cutting thousands of cords each winter, then "driving" the wood through several lakes and streams before reaching the East Branch at Midway, where it is removed from the water and loaded on trucks to be hauled to mills here and in Millicent. Driving wood down rivers and streams requires plenty of water, and the company has found this difficult and expensive. This trouble will be eliminated after the Penobscot is only 40 miles long, it drains an area of more than 100 square miles or about as large as the State of Rhode Island. The two dams will create an artificial lake containing over five billion cubic feet or about 75 billion gallons of water.

It has been the policy of this company to build the dams.

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A. F. of L. Pledges Support to "March of Dimes" Campaign

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor has pledged the united support of that organization to the "Right Infantile Paralysis" campaign.

Meeting with Keith Morgan, national chairman of the Committee for the Celebration of the President's Birthday, Mr. Green said:

"I am pleased to accept your invitation to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Committee for the celebration of the President's Birthday."

"I gladly do this because of my deep interest in your great and noble undertaking. It is in this with the promotion and preservation of the health of our nation's children, and it is essential to the creation of adequate national defense."

"The work of your committee is something that appeals to the heart and conscience of all classes of people. Every man and woman in America should extend to your committee whole-hearted support."

Plans will be worked out at once by Mr. Green and officials of the Federation for active participation in the campaign. A number of the big unions are going to make their contributions in various ways and then send the report of their activities direct to President Roosevelt at the White House.

Mr. Morgan, praising the support of the American Federation of Labor, said that past campaigns in the fight against infantile paralysis.

"This is the biggest campaign in which President Green has volunteered his support. I know that labor is enthusiastically in agreement with the President in his recent declaration of war against the scourge of infantile paralysis and the health of our boys and girls and young men and young women. To me it is one of the front lines of our national defense."

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Railroad Chiefs Call Upon Gov't To Bring Old Equipment Into National Rearmament Program

According to officials of the Standard Railroad Labor Organization, there is an abundance of old equipment in railroad shops that could be utilized for the production of military supplies for the nation's defense, and which would in a great measure, put to work thousands of railroad shopmen who, as the result of decreased work, are at present idle.

Investigations during the week in this direction stimulated considerable interest in railroad labor circles when Harvey W. Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists, spoke in the National Defense Academy.

any Commission, urging that it survey all railroads to find out what shop equipment they have available for reuse production.

"The use of these old shops are now equipped to build locomotives, cars, tanks and steel cars," he said, "and therefore, it does seem they could also do some of the defense work."

Plans to push its program are to be perfected at a meeting in Chicago this weekend of shopmen union chiefs. The conference was called by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. Railway Employees' Department.

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Social Security Relected by Teamsters and Chauffeurs Aids 52,000,000

Arthur T. Altmyer, chairman of the Social Security Board, stated that more than 52,000,000 men and women employed in industry and commerce now have social security accounts.

"Pointing out that the Social Security program, now in its sixth year, has proved a vital factor in conserving the morale of employees and their dependents," Mr. Altmyer said.

"Through this insurance system the workers throughout the entire country are building up protection for themselves and their families. Approximately 1,000 benefit claims for retired wage earners and their aged wives and for widows, orphans and dependent parents of workers who have died are now being approved daily."

While this insurance protects workers' families if old age or death cuts off earnings, unemployment compensation is providing job-seekers with a means to help workers bridge the gap between jobs. More than 12,000,000 workers now have this protection under state laws operating in all States. But it is significant to note that the total amount of benefits actually paid is declining. In July of this year, unemployment benefits totaled almost \$18,000,000. In November, the last month for which figures are available, the total was approximately \$12,600,000. Total benefits for 1940 were \$12,000,000.

"The increase in employment is also shown by the number of workers absorbed by the United States Employment Service. In October alone, that 400,000 persons were placed, an all-time record. In November, the figure reached 565,000, reducing the number of active job-seekers registered to 1,600,000, less than half as many as were on record in the same period during 1940 when there were 3,000,000 and the total for the last seven years is now close to 12,000,000."

Relected by Teamsters and Chauffeurs

RAYMOND M. CONARY
President

Members of Local 140 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Warehousemen, it is most evident, are pretty well pleased over the manner in which the affairs of the local are administered. This was demonstrated at the meeting held December 22nd, when President Raymond M. Conary and Secretary David Hastings, who were principally elected in a bill in equity brought by 15 suspended members who sought reinstatement as members and to the effect which they held out for a large majority pending a decision on the case, which has been appealed to a higher court.

It was voted by the union that the suspended members of the (Local 140) Transportation Co., Inc. return to work.

DAVID M. HASTINGS
Secretary

business agent in the contract with William Coughlin.

Other officers elected are as follows: Albert, Pape of Lewiston, vice-president; David Hastings of Portland, secretary; David Hastings of Portland, treasurer; and Ronald Brown, trustee for three years over a Harry Warner of Portland.

While the court case was decided in favor of the plaintiffs, which would have restored them to their former status, the court has decided against a large majority pending a decision on the case, which has been appealed to a higher court.

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Plumbers and Fitters Union Subscribes to Maine Labor News

At a recent meeting of the Plumbers and Fitters Union, Local 110, the members subscribed to the Maine Labor News for the year 1941.

That 400,000 persons were placed, an all-time record. In November, the figure reached 565,000, reducing the number of active job-seekers registered to 1,600,000, less than half as many as were on record in the same period during 1940 when there were 3,000,000 and the total for the last seven years is now close to 12,000,000."

Statement That Maine Is Regarded As "Hide-out" For Chiseling Bosses Is Proclaimed Most "Unfair"

Claim: Staps Has No Greater Proportion of "Chiselers" Than Any Other State—Employers Who Would Profit From Such Tactics Are Made to "Toe the Mark" by Director of Fair Labor Standards Act.

By ALBERT N. TARDIF

I once heard a speaker refer to Maine as a "hide-out" for chiseling employers. But that was before enactment of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Conditions have changed since then. William Shannon was assigned to Maine as writer-investigator for the Federal Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

Mr. Shannon's superior is Col. Philip H. Fleming, administrator of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and is no stranger to Maine. He has been working in Maine for several years and made many friends throughout Maine when he came here several years ago to take charge of the "Shoody" project.

Shannon has established an enviable reputation as a successful investigator. The first condition for violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act in Maine was secured in Maine. His reputation for succeeding was established.

(Continued on Page 8)

Statement of President William Green With Regard to American Federation of Labor's Legislative Program for 1941.

Legislative Recommendations Derived from Actions of 60th Annual Convention Embodied to Full Extent, Unanimous Support for National Defense—Program in Detail and Positive in Purpose and Expresses Determination to Follow Through on That Line.

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President William Green of the American Federation of Labor has just made public a summary of the adopted policy of that organization with regard to the legislative program for 1941. Copies of the document were transmitted to President Roosevelt, members of Congress, the Secretary of Labor, the National Defense Advisory Commission and other high Federal agencies. This is preliminary to a meeting of the A. F. of L. legislative committee to devise ways and means of furtherance of the principles set forth.

Illustrating the same, Mr. Green said: "This year, preservation of democracy and the requirements of the national defense overshadow all other considerations in our national and international policy. Our program is therefore patriotic and patriotic. It does not seek a selfish advantage for labor at the expense of the national welfare. On the contrary, it pleads for labor to make sacrifices for the national welfare. Our legislative recommendations are as follows: (Continued on Page 8)

Legislative Recommendations Derived from Actions of 60th Annual Convention Embodied to Full Extent, Unanimous Support for National Defense—Program in Detail and Positive in Purpose and Expresses Determination to Follow Through on That Line.

New England Typos Positive in Their Demand For Organizer Who Knows Actual Needs of New England Printers

There was no mingling of words by delegates who discussed the immediate necessity for the appointment of a new representative to the New England Typographical Union, Local 13, which was introduced by John J. Nichols of Portland, president of the Conference. The delegates, who had gathered in the city of Portland, Maine, on Monday, and who represented the conference, not only discussed the need for a new representative, but also discussed the need for a new representative, who would represent the printers of the New England Typographical Union, Local 13, which was introduced by John J. Nichols of Portland, president of the Conference. The delegates, who had gathered in the city of Portland, Maine, on Monday, and who represented the conference, not only discussed the need for a new representative, but also discussed the need for a new representative, who would represent the printers of the New England Typographical Union, Local 13, which was introduced by John J. Nichols of Portland, president of the Conference.

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Facts Concerning Maine Legislation And Part to Be Played by the State Fed. of Labor During 1941 Session

By CHARLES G. DUNTON, Secretary

On January 13, 1941, began the session of the 1941 Legislative Session. The Legislature is bicameral, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate is composed of 12 Representatives and 22 Democrats.

There are 124 members of the Legislature represent a population of nearly 1,000,000 and serve an area of 32,500 square miles.

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Huge Birthday Cake for President Ordered by Bakery Workers Union

As a token of respect for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and as a contribution to the annual drive for funds for the National Youth Administration, the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union announced it will present a magnificent birthday cake to the President in the White House.

A. A. Myrup, secretary of the union, disclosed that the order for the giant cake already has been placed with the Bakery and Confectionery Shop in Washington, and that his organization has reserved the right to purchase the first of the city's fine cakes and to donate it to the President.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Myrup

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6,000 New Homes Ordered By Pres. as Defense Measure

It is reported from Washington that President Roosevelt has issued a ruling which will largely remedy the present situation of a shortage of labor in the construction of the Government's plans for the national defense. Of this construction, the American Federation of Labor has already been selected in which the work has been scheduled to begin in the near future.

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"Problem of the Aftermath"; After The Defense Program Ends, What Then? Question of Deep Concern

An article in the latest issue of the American Federation of Labor magazine, "The Problem of the Aftermath," draws attention to a problem which it calls "the problem of the aftermath." It asks: "What will be the defense program ends, what then?"

The American Federation of Labor is deeply concerned about this question, which does not seem to be receiving much notice in other quarters.

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An Exponent of a Square Deal for Both Sides. Constructive in Policy, Independent in Politics.

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JANUARY, 1941

Stop, Look and Listen!

The Government's defense program offers labor's critics excellent opportunities to continue their "ganging-up" methods, and by this means hope to bring sufficient discredit to warrant delay in the unions' progress.

Evidence submitted during the past few weeks in denial of stories which appeared in daily newspapers which accused trade unions of taking advantage of the defense program to gouge enormous initiation fees and high dues, should cause readers to "Stop, Look and Listen," and by this means become thoroughly satisfied that criticisms given wide publicity in daily newspapers are uncalled for.

To attempt to answer all criticisms would be a colossal task, as haters of Labor unions—those who, from purely selfish motives have ambitious designs against their progress—were never before so active and persistent as at present.

It is most gratifying that in practically all cases, those including the iron workers who drew a "Maz" week's pay while employed on the Capitol building in Washington; the incident which caused Mrs. Roosevelt to refer to the initiation fee charged for the Washington Electrical Workers' Union as a "racket"; the fake story appearing in a Washington newspaper which told of a reporter who secured a job as a carpenter at fabulous wages, and others, the unions were exonerated, and in some instances those responsible for outbursts against unions were exposed as rogues.

Most prominent among these stories, which gave Labor's enemies an opportunity to "crack down," and who took advantage of the anti-strike bill now before Congress, was the initiation fee charged by the Electrical Workers' Union, which, because of an unusual combination of circumstances involved the name of Mrs. Roosevelt, caused nationwide publicity.

According to Congressman John H. Tolan, head of the House Committee which heard the story told by Mrs. D. W. Thomas about her husband being unable to secure a job as an electrician because of his inability to pay the initiation fee required by the union, and the reported statement that Mrs. Roosevelt had referred to this as a racket, upon investigation by the committee, declared that "there was no evidence of racketeering or irregularity," and the union was exonerated from any such charge.

All kinds of schemes are being concocted during these excitable times to poison the minds of an innocent public against trade unions. It is a repetition of World War days, when everything under the sun was tried to interfere with Labor in its efforts to stabilize conditions whereby it could secure its rightful share of the profits made by industry.

Hence, our advice to those who are not aware of these attempts to discredit Labor, is that they "Stop, Look and Listen!" before being too severe in their condemnation of an organization whose principal aims and objects, year in and year out, are to do something toward the establishment of better living standards for its millions of members throughout the land.

"Make America the Arsenal of Democracy," Says the President

Isolationists, like Senator Burton K. Wheeler, who criticized President Roosevelt's address during the past few days, are meeting with extremely little success in their efforts to make the people believe there is no danger from possible invasion of this country by the Axis powers.

They cannot seem to realize that if England is defeated, there is a possibility—by no means remote—that totalitarian states will "gang up" against this country, and if we are to take stock in expert opinion, our Democratic principles will be blown to the wind.

The principal objection on the part of the President's critics, of course, is fear that in carrying out the President's program to furnish England with unlimited support, this will eventually

lead to our entrance into the war. As a matter of fact, to quote them, they are of the belief that the President is avowedly steering this nation in that direction.

It is most fortunate that Senator Wheeler has comparatively few people who believe as he does. Compactly grasp the opportunity to make its campaign effective was the National Committee to Keep the United States Out of War, which, within a few days, circulated the entire country with quotations from Senator Wheeler's speech.

No one except those who "see green" when anything is done which establishes danger of our possible entrance into the war, could see anything in the President's message which in any way can be construed to mean actual warfare. It is as plain as day that the President is wholly concerned with future possibilities, should we be left alone to fight a combination of dictators whose aims, hopes and aspirations are to rule the destinies of the people of the entire world.

There is one thing certain. If we should go the limit in helping Great Britain in her present dilemma, we cannot be in a worse position than we are at present in the eyes of the Axis powers. Our actions during the past year have been regarded by Germany and Italy as interfering with their program to defeat England. Hence, if we are satisfied that England's defeat may endanger the future of our own nation, it behooves us to spare no means to do all that is possible to save England from defeat.

When the President said in his message that America should be made "the Arsenal of Democracy," he said just what he meant, viz: that every citizen in this country must put forth all possible efforts, short of war, to stop Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia from invading our shores, and that the best way to do this is to help England to victory.

Would Shame Slackers by Patriotic Example

Slackers and trouble-makers came in for a severe trouncing in President Roosevelt's address at the opening of the 77th Congress last Monday, when he warned them that nothing whatever must stand in the way of speed and efficiency, and that defense preparations must give way to the national need.

The President appeared to have become extremely impatient with a certain element, who, as they did during World War No. 1, aim to make huge profits out of war, and minced no words in calling their attention as to what might happen to them in case they renege on what is expected from them in the present emergency.

In the course of his address, Mr. Roosevelt said, in part:

"We must all prepare to make the sacrifices that the emergency—as serious as war itself—demands. Whatever stands in the way of speed and efficiency in defense preparations must give way to the national need."

"A free nation has the right to expect full cooperation from all groups. A free nation has the right to look to the leaders of business, of labor, and of agriculture to take the lead in stimulating effort, not among other groups, but within their own groups."

"The best way of dealing with the few slackers or trouble-makers in our midst is, first, to shame them by patriotic example, and if that fails, to take the sovereignty of government to save government."

Desirous of making everybody conscious of their individual stake in the preservation of Democratic life in America; and that stamina and courage are most essential to successfully meet present disturbed conditions, the President said:

"As men do not live by bread alone, they do not fight by armaments alone. Those who man our defenses, must have the stamina and courage which come from an unshakable belief in the manner of life which they are defending. The mighty action which we are calling for cannot be based on a disregard of all things worth fighting for."

"The nation takes great satisfaction and much strength from the things which have been done to make its people conscious of their individual stake in the preservation of democratic life in America. Those things have toughened the fiber of our people, have renewed their faith and strengthened their devotion to the institutions we make ready to protect."

"Certainly this is not the time to stop thinking about the social and economic problems which are the root cause of the social revolution which is today a supreme factor in the world."

"There is nothing mysterious about the foundations of a healthy and strong democracy. The basic things expected by our people of their political and economic systems are simple. They are:

"Equality of opportunity for you and for others. Jobs for those who can work. Security for those who need it. The ending of special privileges for the few. The preservation of civil liberties for all. The enjoyment of the fruits of scientific progress in a wider and constantly rising standard of living."

"These are the simple and basic things that must never be lost sight of in the turmoil and unbelievable complexity of our modern world. The inner and abiding strength of our economic and political systems is dependent upon the degree to which they fulfill these expectations."

"Many subjects connected with our social economy call for immediate improvement. As examples: We should bring more citizens under the coverage of old-age pensions and unemployment

insurance; we should widen the opportunities for adequate medical care, and we should plan a better system by which persons deserving or needing careful medical help may obtain it."

"I have called for personal sacrifice. I am assured of the willingness of almost all Americans to respond to the call."

That Congress will back the President in his efforts to deal roughly with those whose principal object in this great emergency is to make profits, is certain. They have been warned that drastic means will be taken if they fail to measure up to the needs of the nation's needs. The die is cast, and "chislers," money-hags and the greedy had better be careful if they want to save their hides.

The Right to Strike

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, writes about Labor and the defense program in an article appearing under his signature and in two signed editorials, in the January issue of The American Federationist. Taking up the question of strikes, Mr. Green writes:

"The right to strike is a fundamental and sacred possession of free labor in free countries. This right must be jealously guarded and fully protected in America, not only by labor but by all who regard as indispensable the rights guaranteed to the people by the Constitution."

Mr. Green denounces those "few individuals" who are already crying for vicious anti-labor measures in the highly mistaken belief that oppression of the workers would speed execution of the defense program and points out that, since the millions of workers are obviously the nation's first line of defense, it is at least as essential that they be "well-fed, well-housed, well-clothed and in good physical and moral health" as it is for our soldiers and sailors to be well taken care of.

While stating with emphasis that the right to strike must be retained, Mr. Green reiterates that the Federation continues committed to the policy of avoiding strikes in all instances "unless conditions become unbearable."

In another signed editorial, Mr. Green suggests that the way to secure peace in industries engaged in defense production is by widespread collective bargaining, with employers signing contracts with trade unions.

"A union contract, negotiated by representatives chosen by the workers through their union machinery and representatives selected by management, uniformly provides for joint machinery to adjust grievances growing out of the operation of the contract and also provides the machinery and channels through which conciliation and mediation can operate."

"Provision for representation of workers through their unions and for collective bargaining is basic for the maintenance of industrial peace," Mr. Green concluded.

Voters Like True Progressives

It is perhaps a little late to hold a post-mortem on November's election, but as a matter of fact, the official figures are just trickling into Washington.

One point they demonstrate beyond peradventure: It pays to be Progressive.

"Bert" Crocker, Cleveland's famous Congressman and the idol of cultured workers, got the largest majority of his career. It runs around 50,000 and exceeds his total vote in other elections.

"Jerry" Voorhis, one of the ablest of the Progressives in the House, has a lead about three times as long as that of "F. D." himself, and the latter made a great race in California.

Senator Burton K. Wheeler carried almost every precinct in Montana and got the largest majority ever given a candidate for a major office.

Senator Shipstead of Minnesota, one of the greatest vote-getters in American history, ran on the Republican ticket this year and defeated his nearest opponent by 350,000, although Willie lost the state to Roosevelt.

In Massachusetts, Senator David I. Walsh not only won by the face of tremendous opposition, but ran about 200,000 votes ahead of the President.

Of course, some fine Progressives went down to defeat, but in the main the voters stood by those who had stood by them.

There was a time when a militant Progressive record was a serious handicap for an ambitious politician. That was in the long ago, when the older La Follette was blazing the way in Wisconsin and Norris was just beginning to attract attention.

"Times have changed," says Labor, official newspaper of the Railway Brotherhoods. "People are voting more intelligently and independently, and that's about the best guarantee we could have that democracy is safe in this country."

No Suspension of Labor Laws

National Defense Advisory Commission officials primarily concerned with formulating and activating defense production labor policies are reported to be certain that proposed legislation to suspend certain labor laws, primarily the Wagner and Walsh-Hayes acts, will fail.

They are said to be confident that before Congress can get around to act on the proposed legislation, certain voluntary reforms and regulations engineered by the commission's Labor Policy Advisory Committee will have removed any alleged necessity for the legislation.

Within the next few months it is expected a voluntary wage stabilization program will have been worked out for the aircraft and shipbuilding industries, in cooperation with the Labor Commit-

tee. Such stabilization should substantially decrease the likelihood of strikes in those industries. Whatever the basis of the final stabilization program will be, defense officials are said to be insistent that it shall be voluntary on the part of employer and employee representatives. "There will be no ramming of a defense labor policy down anyone's throat," is the way it has been expressed.

Those reports from the defense commission are most encouraging, indicating the national government's continuing intention to stand with organized labor in maintenance of present wage and hour standards.

Looks Bad for Mr. Bridges

With Attorney General Jackson declaring that Harry Bridges is a Communist, therefore not entitled to residence in this country, matters look anything but rosy for the Pacific Coast leader of the CIO.

The Attorney General based his statement on a report submitted by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who, while not divulging the exact nature of the "factual evidence" about Communism, said the report contained sufficient evidence to convince authorities that Bridges' activities have been such as to warrant the Attorney General taking action in his case.

As head of the CIO Longshoremen's Union on the Pacific Coast, Bridges has been the center of a controversy both in and out of Congress for more than a year, when a move to secure the status of his citizenship was the cause for an investigation by the Departments of Labor and Justice.

It was while hearings were going on relative to Bridges' deprivation that John Lewis, former president of the CIO, praised Bridges for his union activities and said he wished there were more like him in the trade union movement.

It was announced that in all probability the Attorney General will call public hearings on the report submitted by Mr. Hoover, which is said to contain 3,000 words.

Latest Marvel in Mechanization

Daily it is becoming more evident that this country's rearmament program as now being conducted, will never absorb all the unemployed, who must be given some kind of constructive employment if we are to have total defense. A striking example of this fact came to light recently when it was announced that the new \$2,000,000 plant of the Durez Plastic and Chemicals, Inc., of Toms River, N. J., will be operated by only six men and a supervisor.

This huge plant, which can now produce fifteen million pounds of phenol a year, gives the appearance from the outside of being a giant of industry where one would suppose hundreds of men were toiling and receiving wages. But such is not the case, the whole process of production being carried on by one of those push-button control propositions which have come along with machine improvements. Seven men, operating this mechanized system, will now produce a huge supply of phenol, which is used in certain kinds of high explosives as well as in the manufacture of plastics.

Planning for Future

Necessity of training skilled workers now for work in the future is emphasized by the American Federation of Labor in its latest survey of unemployment.

"Today," the Federation says, "the United States is producing more goods on a 40-hour week than we produced in 1929 on a 48 or 50-hour week, and we have fewer persons employed. Our labor supply is adequate to meet all defense needs provided that employers plan ahead. We need only adequate time to train men for the type of work required."

"Those who fail to plan ahead for their labor needs have no right to cry 'labor shortage' if the trained workers are not ready to them."

Far-sighted employers will be doing a service to themselves and the nation by heeding the Federation's words and "planning ahead."

Praise for Public Housing

The 1940 Yearbook of the Memphis, Tenn., Real Estate Board says of the local public housing program which is developed with United States Housing Authority funds:

"Probably no more constructive work has been done in the City of Memphis in the last 20 years than the attempt made in the past decade to eradicate slums."

The report concludes: "Memphis is proud of her slum-clearance projects and hopes that within another decade there will be no slums left."

Enlightened real estate men everywhere share the view of the Memphis realtors whose stand on public housing indicates they are citizens of vision and public spirit.

USHA Housing Nursery Schools

Nursery schools are now operating in at least 24 United States Housing Authority public housing projects.

During one recent three-month period, 56,160 children of families in the 24 projects received the benefits of trained supervision. These schools were also attended by an additional 8,658 neighborhood children not living in the projects.

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES BASIC

By DR. CHARLES STELTZLE

Every movement or institution which hopes to make an appeal to Americans today must be founded upon the fundamental principle of Democracy, which includes the consent of the governed, and a form of organization that is representative of the people. This alone insures its basic in fallibility. It is the only basis of democracy which endures human dignity and liberty.

The same attitude regarding democracy exists within the Church. President Roosevelt recently said that democracy is its basic in fallibility. This fact has been made clear through recent events in Europe. Together they may attain a double victory. Allocated, they will suffer a common defeat.

Industry is facing one of the most serious periods in all its history. It still has to be convinced that the brakes on progress—if it wishes to do so—must be the work of the people. The failure of either industry or labor who leads to recognize this fact or who is incapable of maintaining it, will soon face personal defeat or else he will see the organization for whose success he has labored, in the form that it is, destroyed.

This does not mean Socialism, Fascism or Communism, particularly such as exists or is surely developing in some European countries, but it does mean a greater Democracy in industry and in the world as a whole. (Continued on Page 10)

No Time to Rock the Boat!

(Journal of Electrical Workers)

The almost universal approval of the selection of Phil Murray as head of the CIO is marred by pronouncements and proposals emanating from Atlantic City. Mr. Murray is regarded highly both in the labor movement and in the industry for his strict trade unionism, his high integrity and his careful study of the performance of his task of protecting the members of his union from the perils of outside attack from Atlantic City, proposals of which Mr. Murray was not in complete control. In the main, these proposals are:

Continued warfare with the A. F. of L.

Seizing the defense situation not as a job for national production, but as an opportunity to organize key industries for the CIO.

Seizure of the CIO as a center of defense industries by the CIO.

Prosecution of the theory of class warfare.

These proposals, coupled with the selection of a well-known communist as a vice-president, suggest that Mr. Murray and the acceptance of a good number of communists in the ranks of the CIO, leaves one wondering if there is any chance either in the spirit of the CIO or the objectives of the CIO. This is surely no time to rock the boat. The United States has a tremendous task to perform in its own defense, and it is up to the organization to see that it is not a right to say "We come first and the nation second."

UNION DIRECTORY

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

William Green, president; Frank B. Rowland, secretary, 1000 F. O. B. Building, Washington, D. C.

International Brotherhood of Laborers

Benjamin J. Davis, president; Benjamin J. Davis, secretary, 1000 F. O. B. Building, Washington, D. C.

International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America

John L. Lewis, president; 1000 F. O. B. Building, Washington, D. C.

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International Union of Shipbuilding Workers of America

British Minister of Labor Assured That American Workers Appreciate Need For Speeding Up Production

In a cablegram dated December 30, Vice-President Matthew Wolf of the American Federation of Labor informed Ernest Bevin, British Minister of Labor, that the workers of this country would cooperate wholeheartedly in the British struggle, and expressed the hope that 1941 would witness "the downfall of the dictatorship and the triumph and restoration of freedom and democracy throughout the world."

Mr. Wolf's cablegram was in response to an appeal from the British Minister of Labor to American workers to help check the "brutal barbarism" of the Nazis by speeding up production of planes and other materials for Great Britain.

To advance the work of the American Committee to Aid British Labor, Mr. Wolf dispatched a letter this week to the presidents of 60 national and

international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L., urging them to join the committee and give it financial assistance.

Mr. Wolf said that the workers of this country have two important functions to perform: "The first is to make it possible for this country to 'arm' itself with the 'arsenal of democracy,' as the President put it. The second is to rally American workers to give every possible aid to the British workers who, together with the rest of the civilian population, are suffering greater privations and tragedies than any civilian population has ever suffered in the past."

The committee was set up in response to an address by Sir Walter Dill Scott, general secretary of the British Trade Union Congress and president of the International Federation of Trade Unions, who is now in the United States.

Ladies Garment Workers Union Asks Efficient Management by Employers

New York City, Jan. 8 (AFL).—Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, A. F. of L. affiliate, told the representatives of five employers today that the principle that workers in a dress factory have the right to demand efficient management as a condition of employment should be written into the collective agreement covering 10,000 unorganized dress makers here.

Pointing out that the earnings of workers paid on a piece-rate basis were kept low by faulty plant organization, inadequate equipment and manifestations of inefficient management, Mr. Hochman said the union would insist on inclusion in the new contract of a clause giving workers the right to file charges with the impartial chairman of the dress industry against employers whom they deem inefficient. It was said the acceptance of Mr. Hochman's proposal would make this the first in-

dustry in which inefficiency by management would be a contract violation.

To eliminate the outmoded production practices that the union holds responsible for the misery of the local manufacturers, the garment workers offered to supervise the establishment of a school of management at which experts in various specialized fields would tell the employers how to organize their businesses along more efficient lines.

"This should give no offense to any producer or contractor in the industry," Mr. Hochman said, "since we have found from experience that the more able the man the more ready he is to learn new methods and absorb information from any reliable source."

As an additional step in its campaign to "streamline" the industry and make New York City the style center of the world, the union recommended formation by the manufacturers of a committee on standards, to "kill" complaints from retailers and to draw up a code of fair practices.

St. Paul Packing Company Ordered To Produce Books and Records in Wage-Hour Law Enforcement

Efforts of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, to examine books and records of the St. Paul branch of the Cudahy Packing Company in enforcement of the Wage and Hour Law were continued today when Federal Judge Robert C. Bell denied an order requiring the company to permit the examination.

Judge Bell granted an application for the order filed by attorneys for the Wage and Hour Division in the U. S. District Court at Minneapolis.

The application was presented when requests by Wage and Hour Division inspectors to company officials for permission to conduct the examination in the course of enforcement activities were declined. An order to show cause why the examination should not be made was issued by the court on December 10.

Judge Bell's order, dated December 11, 1940, was regarded as a landmark in enforcement of the minimum wage and maximum hour provisions of the law, because various branches of the packing company in other sections of the country have refused to produce books and records for examination, and further action has been held in the St. Paul branch in the proceedings in Minnesota.

A number of other lower courts have upheld the right of the Administrator to examine books and records in enforcement of the wage-hour law, and recently the United States Supreme Court refused to review a decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in a case involving the Montgomery Ward Company of Chicago, in which the lower court held

Lubin Denies Strikes Are Holding Up Defense Projects

Flat denial that strikes are interfering with the national defense program was given to a Congressional committee by Senator Lubin, Director of Statistics for the U. S. Department of Labor.

Dr. Lubin testified there have been fewer strikes in the past five months than during the same five months in 1939.

However, the union isn't resting with these gains. It has launched a huge "crash" drive the aircraft factory throughout the United States and Canada. The drive is aimed at securing a 40-hour week, plus many local business agents, have been assigned to the membership campaign on the coast. Many others are on the job in aircraft centers elsewhere.

This drive will have far-reaching consequences, because the aircraft industry, while sharing in profitable government contracts, has been one of the lowest wage industries in the nation.

The Machinists are out to secure that condition.

One of the best contracts in the industry is in effect at Boeing Aircraft in Seattle, it was pointed out. There the Machinists have won a 43½-hour minimum starting wage for production workers, with the rate rising to \$11.50 an hour for skilled mechanics. The union has 1,600 members at Boeing, all working under a "closed shop."

Another remarkable agreement has been negotiated with the Lockheed and

SAADOR LUBIN

1941, which was a comparable percentage period. He added:

"Indeed, there have been practically no strikes of any significance recently and both labor and employers are to be congratulated on this. We have heard nothing about this 'strike problem' except for one strike in a comparatively small airplane factory in California."

He was referring to the CIO strike in Voltaire Aircraft.

AFL Clerks Win Pay Increase; End Strike in 1,500 Grocery Stores

Philadelphia, Nov. 17 (LNS)—Seven thousand clerks, members of the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association, A. F. of L. affiliate, ended a strike in more than 1,500 stores of three food chains operating in this area, following decision to accept a compromise settlement providing wage increases and a union shop.

The strike lasted a month, having been begun by 2,100 members of the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association, A. F. of L. affiliate, ended a strike in more than 1,500 stores of three food chains operating in this area, following decision to accept a compromise settlement providing wage increases and a union shop.

Machinists Drive in Air Craft Plants Nets Union 30,000 New Members And Material Wage Gains

Record progress in signing up workers and negotiating agreements in the fast-growing aircraft industry was reported by the International Association of Machinists.

A. M. membership in factories making planes and aircraft parts has soared the 30,000 mark in the past five months to give every possible aid to the British workers who, together with the rest of the civilian population, are suffering greater privations and tragedies than any civilian population has ever suffered in the past."

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AFL Won 109 New York State Polls To Name Bargaining Agent in 1940

New York City, Jan. 8 (AFL).—Employees designated unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor won their sole bargaining representative in 109 of the 110 New York State elections last year, Edward J. Kelley, the board's examiner in charge of employing unions, reported today.

As an indication of the extent of employee interest in the bargaining, Mr. Kelley noted that 109 workers, or 99 per cent of those qualified, went to the polls during 1940. A. F. of L. and CIO organizations claimed on the ballot in 21 elections, with independent unions as a third contestant in four of these.

The A. F. of L. was unopposed in 115 elections and the CIO in 18. There were ten contests in which both the A. F. of L. and CIO organizations and six between CIO affiliates.

During most of the year the AFLB permitted employees to record a vote for no union, instead of requiring them to make a choice between two unions. Mr. Kelley said that provision for "no union" votes but that only twice had employees voted to reject all the unions in the field. One was an election involving three employees in a Bronx bakery and the other involved 100 workers in a novelty manufacturing shop.

Vega plants in Burbank, Calif., both of which are under a single representation agreement with the Machinists. No. 727 of the Machinists has enrolled 1,600 members and won exclusive bargaining rights.

Its part with the company establishing a minimum starting pay of \$15 cents per hour, with raises after 30 days, with scales for skilled workers up to \$12.50 an hour.

At Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, the Machinists have had bargaining rights, under written agreement, since 1937 and the membership has now climbed to 6,500.

Pay raises for skill help run as high as \$1.07 an hour at the Mitchell Can Company of Hollywood, which makes airplane parts and is under a closed shop agreement with the Machinists.

A contract is also being negotiated at the Hammond Aircraft Company in San Francisco, and lodges have been set up at North American Aircraft in Inglewood, Calif.; Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica, Calif., and at a number of other plane centers.

Among plants elsewhere under contract with the Machinists are the Voltec unit in Nashville, Tenn.; Curtiss-Wright in St. Louis; Beech Aircraft in Wichita, Kan., and scores of parts factories.

Organizing drives are also underway at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, Conn.; Wright Aeronautical Corp. in Paterson, Caldwell and Clinton, N. J.; Brewster Aeronautical Corp. in Newark; Sikorsky, at Bridgeport, Conn., and many others, both in the United States and Canada.

Bakery Workers Int. Union Trebled Membership in 4 Yrs.

The Labor News is in receipt of a message of good cheer as one of the

men who, in various ways, assisted it in its march of progress during the past four years, which made it possible to triple the organization's membership. The message, which is signed by A. A. MYRUP, "International secretary-treasurer, follows:

"Greetings,"

"Old friends are the best friends, and we do want in this letter to express deep appreciation for the cooperation of our friends and the service which the bona fide labor movement and its sympathizers is giving to our organization. Owing to the continued full measure of support, our membership has tripled during the past four years, with over three and one-half million labels being used annually on products manufactured in plants in agreement relationship with our organization."

"As a token of sincere appreciation, we are accompanying our Christmas wishes with one of our popular, illustrated calendars, and we also extend to you personally, as well as to those whom you represent, every good wish and an abundance of success in the New Year."

A. A. MYRUP

many friends of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union.

Anti-Trust Drive Against Unions Branded "Fascism" in Supreme Court

Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold's campaign of prosecuting labor unions under the anti-trust laws was branded as "Fascism" at a hearing before the United States Supreme Court.

Charles Tuttle, former U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, appearing as counsel for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, charged that Arnold's assumption of the right to prosecute strikes as illegal "is Fascism—pure and simple."

The case before the court involved an old jurisdictional dispute in St. Louis between the carpenters and the International Association of Machinists. Arnold charged an indictment against William L. Hutcheson, president of the carpenters, as an outgrowth of the strike, but the indictment was thrown out of court when the case came to trial in the Federal District Court.

Mr. Tuttle is now appealing that decision in behalf of the Government. During the course of the argument

before the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter challenged Arnold's position several times. He pointed out that jurisdictional strikes have a long history and that "they have had them in England for hundreds of years."

Titus declared, in his turn, that such strikes do not place upon the employer the burden of as to bring them within the scope of the anti-trust laws.

Another lively interchange took place when Justice Frankfurter asked Arnold whether he thought the anti-trust laws could be applied to "jurisdictional" disputes between American Federation of Labor and CIO unions. Arnold said he thought the laws could be applied in such disputes if they involved restraint of trade.

"So you think the thing to do, instead of going before the Labor Board, is to indict them all under the Sherman Act?" Justice Frankfurter asked.

"Not necessarily," was the best response Arnold could summon.

Pay Increase of \$7,000,000 Ordered for 70,000 R.R. Men

The U. S. Department of Labor has just issued a communication to which it is stated that Col. Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, has ordered pay increases totaling seven million dollars and affecting 70,000 employees of the principal railroads in the United States. Principally included are track workers, so-called porters and "freight" men, dining car waiters, office and other employees.

The order was issued after a study of recommendations of the Railroad Carrier Industry Committee, appointed under the Fair Labor Standards Act (Federal Wage and Hour Law). Chairman Frank P. Graham, who is president of the University of North Carolina, recommended a minimum wage of 31 cents per hour for employees of trunk line railroads, and 33 cents for short lines. The order will go into effect on March 1, 1941.

This is the third largest wage increase to be ordered under the present law. In the apparel industry a schedule of minimum rates were selectively advanced from 25 cents per hour to 40 cents, benefiting 80,000 workers; likewise followed next, where wages were increased by administrative order, affected 175,000 employees.

It is officially stated that work is now under way preparing for the eventual issuance of wage orders in all interstate industries which employ considerable numbers of workers and where the rate is less than 40 cents per hour. This figure is the goal of the Wage and Hour law.

COMPLIMENTS OF THEE.

EASTLAND HOTEL

PORTLAND, MAINE



Original photograph of sun seen carrying the sun from South Portland, Maine, November, 1939.

Thanks again... MAINE

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Conn. Labor Federation Favors State Fund Law For Compensation

That much dissatisfaction prevails over the comparatively small portion received by injured workers from the millions of dollars paid annually in premiums to insurance companies by employers, is becoming more and more apparent, and the present set-up in Connecticut and other New England States is due for a decided change.

For more than a quarter of a century, organized labor—through its State Federations—has been assiduously trying to bring about a change in this form of workers' insurance. Careful studies have been made, which resulted in demonstrating that injured workers were not only receiving comparatively small portions of the premiums paid by employers, but that on numerous occasions employers were compelled to disburse a goodly portion of their men because they failed to comply with physical requirements demanded by insurance companies.

Although employers have been aware as regards this situation, they took no collective action until this year, when state conventions of Associated Industries, while not having been sold on the exclusive State Fund plan, are, however, planning to amend present laws to not only increase benefits to injured workers, but to curb distasteful policies of insurance companies which, in some instances, almost completely disorganized working forces.

Vermont Federation of Labor Officials Busy in Preparing Labor's Program For Submission to State Legislature

According to Secretary Robert Sinclair of the Vermont Federation of Labor, members of the Legislative Committee are working hard on drafting measures for their legislative program, which is to be submitted to the Legislature for consideration on February 18.

While the program will call for the enactment of a dozen or more measures, activities will be largely centered on amendments to two major laws, Unemployment Compensation Insurance and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Much consideration was given these measures at a dozen or more sessions of the Federation held since the 1939 session of the Legislature, and held in Burlington in 1939, and the 1940 convention held in Rutland last August, when several articles were submitted to the Unemployment Compensation Commission because of misinterpretation of the law which caused untold delay and general dissatisfaction on the part of workers in all industrial centers throughout the State.

In discussing the Unemployment Compensation Act, as amended, the Federation, at the Burlington convention, delegates referred to the arrogant and indifferent manner resorted to by the "chiselers" and "shameless" in their treatment of applicants for benefits.

One after another was cited where workers were unable to receive their benefits, some of which were settled through intervention of State Federation officials when called to their attention, while others were unemployed—causing applicants to wait months for their benefits.

It was said these lengthy delays, due to red tape and an ostentatious desire to "chisel" on the benefits due applicants, are causing endless troubles among those needing compensation and who, in many cases, have to rely upon private charity.

New England Council Head Hits Firms Who Hesitate to Make Necessary Changes to Engage in Defense Work

Halph E. Flinders, of Springfield, Vt., president of the New England Council, did not mince words in his address at a meeting held in Boston, at which were present 1200 representatives of industrial, commercial and agricultural organizations in the New England area.

Flinders, in his address, urged private business for the moment and to lend their support to the National Defense program. Mr. Flinders said that such industries as aircraft, shipbuilding and machine tools must "expand rapidly and without limit except for those set by effective production."

Asserting that there had been reports that defense orders originally offered in New England were placed in the hands of the Hudson because of lower bids, Flinders declared that in the case of war orders, the Government would not be deterred by such "business competition."

He said that in some instances "manufacturers were both to 'make' and to 'lose' their time, and did not want to be bothered to make the necessary changes in their equipment."

"If these manufacturers mind with respect to any corner of New England," he added, "they must instantly be abandoned. To retain those to play false with New England, the workers are depending on it, and with National Defense itself."

State Organization Formed To Urge Enactment of Social And Labor Legislation

That members of the New Hampshire Legislature have been indifferent to legislative demands submitted by other organizations, is the basis of a working party, was the subject of a meeting at Concord, N. H., on Sunday, Dec. 15th, and at which means were taken to consolidate forces whose purpose will be to attend to the legislative committee hearings and to present at the legislative session of the Legislature.

Present at the meeting were representatives of the State Federation of Labor, several local churches and other organizations, whose members manifested much interest in working people and who desire to be heard in improving their conditions through the enactment of remedial legislation.

The meeting was unofficial, all who responded to the call having done so on their own initiative, and for the purpose of outlining a program of activities which, through cooperation with other industrial, labor or other organizations, will warrant greater attention on the part of legislators in their consideration and action upon legislation of a remedial nature.

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Rhode Island State Federation Of Labor On Record as Opposed To Employer Experience Rating

In Resolution No. 111, adopted by the Rhode Island State Federation of Labor, and acted upon by the American Federation of Labor at its recent biennial convention, that body placed its official record as being in opposition to the so-called "Experience Rating Law." In detailed analysis, the State Federation pointed out the harmful effects upon the laborer of the so-called "Experience Rating" law, which in many instances has been in effect for two years and will expire on November 30, 1941. However, after it has been in effect for two years, wages will be subject to an upward adjustment.

Although union officials praise the attitude of employers during the negotiations, it was said, "This strike could have been averted if the employers' association would have agreed to negotiate when we requested it ninety days ago. Considerable labor difficulty is caused not for any fundamental differences between employers and employees, but by an unreasonable refusal to bargain collectively."

Denies Walsh-Henley Act Delays Production of Government Supplies

L. Metcalf Walling, former Labor Commissioner of Rhode Island, now director of the Walsh-Henley Act, in a recent statement to the Navy Department report which asserted the act-filing later standards on Government contracts work—"continues to be a disturbing factor" in the procurement of some Government supplies.

"I am somewhat surprised," Walling wrote Admiral Spruance, "that the Navy Department still feels that the Public Contract Act is hampering its procurement of the machinery specifically set up under the Walsh-Henley Act to exempt contracts in the public interest from the provisions of the act."

Mr. Walling also disputed a charge in the Spruance report that one year's delay in the act-filing later standards on Government contracts work was encountered on an airplane engine contract because of the Walsh-Henley Act. He said the matter was pending in the Labor Department only seven days.

"SACRIFICING SOCIAL GAINS WOULD RUIN NATIONAL UNITY"

That prediction that the next Congress will not be able to do so, was made by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York in a radio address on the subject of "Sacrificing Social Gains Would Ruin National Unity."



U. S. SENATOR WAGNER

Wagner continued, "We must preserve those measures that provide decent jobs at fair wages. We cannot now afford the slightest suggestion to reduce the number of jobs by making the hours of labor of defense workers longer and longer. This proposal would defeat its own objective."

Wagner pointed out that social legislation and labor safeguards again will play an important part in making our economy more efficient and in speeding defense production.

In and Out Of The News

(Continued from Page 2)

Two shifts of workmen being employed five days a week, and half a day on Saturday, John H. Sweeney is now being able to maintain himself in and out of season, when the large yards have been closed down after the completion of some major production programs.

This complaint was voiced at a conference between representatives of the shipbuilding industry and several members of Maine's Congressional representatives. The latter included Senators Wallace H. White and Halph O. Brewster and Representative Margaret Chase Smith. Arthur J. Sweeney, president of the shipyard, said the case for East Boothbay. It was pointed out that the shipyard had "all the required equipment and experience" to produce many types of boats which the Government, contracts were very difficult to obtain.

Representative Smith stated that the shipyard owners should forward to Washington complete information as to the kind of boats which they are prepared to build, together with all essential facts relative to dock space and channel depth. Also, such yards, she said, must be prepared to "respond quickly" with bids, when these are called for, the element of time being most essential in such circumstances.

The conference bids fair to produce good material results resulting from the exchange of vital information closed on both sides.

NVA AT QUODDY VILLAGE

The Department of Vocational Education and the National Youth Administration are cooperating in the work now being carried on at Quoddy Village. The present outlook for the young men in the group of 700 who have enrolled in the eight NVA work at Quoddy, will be slightly under 100.

ARMY SHOE CONTRACT FOR BELFAST COMPANY

The Belfast Brothers Shoe Company, Belfast, has been awarded an Army contract for the manufacture of 50,000 pairs of shoes for the Army. It is to be delivered at a rate of 10,000 pairs a month.

THE LABOR NEWS, 50¢ A YEAR

The effect of this law, it is contended by the Federation, may result in further making the "chiselers" benefits less liberal than at present, or, will act as a lever in the future against further expansion of such benefits payments. In addition, it may, in many cases, endanger the delivery of State funds out of which existing benefits are paid.

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In view of the fact that the State Federation of Labor is opposed to the so-called "Experience Rating Law," it is contended by the Federation, may result in further making the "chiselers" benefits less liberal than at present, or, will act as a lever in the future against further expansion of such benefits payments. In addition, it may, in many cases, endanger the delivery of State funds out of which existing benefits are paid.

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ed forces, the Senator said. To sacrifice social gains would undermine national unity, he warned.

"Hither boasts of strength through national unity," the Senator explained, "must be met by a similar boast of social gains. The strength of a free society where unity rests upon the spontaneous cooperation of a free people, is the only strength that can stand the test of time, and convinced that human progress and happiness have no bounds in a land where liberty prevails."

"To those who say that the first task of the Congress will be to retreat from the liberal and humanitarian reforms of the past seven years, the answer must be: 'The Congress does not retreat. It moves forward!'"

"To discard or weaken these measures would be to weaken ourselves," the Senator warned. "This step Congress will never take."

"Now, more than ever," Senator Wagner continued, "we must preserve those measures that provide decent jobs at fair wages. We cannot now afford the slightest suggestion to reduce the number of jobs by making the hours of labor of defense workers longer and longer. This proposal would defeat its own objective."

Wagner pointed out that social legislation and labor safeguards again will play an important part in making our economy more efficient and in speeding defense production.

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OWNERS COMPLAIN

Strong and well-founded objection is being made that the sudden expansion of the large scale shipbuilding plants is having the effect of drawing workers from the smaller yards where they have been able to maintain themselves in and out of season, when the large yards have been closed down after the completion of some major production programs.

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Bangor Carpenters Claim They Have the Largest Local Union in The State, North of Portland

"Carpenters' Local 621 of Bangor is now claiming to be the strongest Carpenters' Union in Maine, north of Portland. It, however, any other union can beat it out in this respect, we will be glad to congratulate them and wish them success," writes John H. Ambrose, secretary of the local union, in referring to activities in Bangor Labor circles during the past month.

"Work in Bangor is not only keeping our members busy, but due to extra work caused in the construction of the Government defense work, we have

taken in as members all available carpenters within a radius of 25 or more miles in order to meet the demands of union contracts.

In his communication for the December issue, Mr. Ambrose omitted the name of Roland Thorne, one of the members in the list of newly elected officers of Local 621, and asked to make a reference to the name of Business Agent H. W. Foster, who is also a member of the local of Bangor, having appeared in the Christmas issue of The Labor News as "Butter".

plished this year. However, it is encouraging to note that President Roosevelt, in his message to the 77th Congress said: "The best things expected by our people of their political and economic systems are simple. They are: Security for their jobs."

WOODLAND

Woodland Pulp and Sulphite Wks. Elect Theo. Baker President

Officers Installed by C. Arnold Brown, Vice-President of the Maine State Federation of Labor.

Members of Woodland Local 27 of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, at their meeting in Town Building on December 26th, elected Theodore Baker, president, and these other officers for the ensuing year:

Vice-president, Ernest Leighton; recording secretary, Robert Newman; financial secretary, Harold Alward; treasurer, Paul Ashby; inside guard, Vito Tratti; outside guard, James McClure.

Trustees and auditors, Fred Harrison, Walter Morrison and James Fletcher.

Delegates to Woodland Central Labor Union, Emilie Dechese, Robert Newman, Vito Tratti, Paul Ashby, Ernest Leighton, Theodore Baker and Jack Townsend.

The officers were installed at the meeting held Sunday, January 5th, by C. Arnold Brown, vice-president of the Maine State Federation of Labor.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, Mr. Brown, who is also one of the very able leaders of the Maine District Council of Paper Mill Unions, gave a very fine talk to a most appreciative audience.

Mr. Brown highly praised President Dursky and other officers of the State Federation for their work during the past year, and spoke of how necessary unity is in the ranks of Labor if we wish to achieve the conditions that are rightfully ours.

Local 27 certainly appreciates having its district in the State Federation.

State Branch President to Install Woodland Officers at Banquet

Newly elected officers of Woodland Local 27 of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers will be installed at a banquet to be held next Sunday (January 13) at which President R. J. Dursky of the Maine State Federation of Labor will be the guest speaker.

The following officers, who were elected at the December 26th meeting, will be installed: President, Arnold Brown; vice-president, Wilfred Gagnon; recording secretary, Tony Tancro; financial secretary, Charles Gray; treasurer, Joseph Drotar; sergeant-at-arms, James McClure; Trustees and auditors, John Cox,

Carl Humphries, John Brown and Earl Wahl.

Delegates to Woodland Central Labor Union, Ernest Leighton, Theodore Baker, Harold Alward, James McClure, Paul Ashby, Vito Tratti, Fred Harrison, Walter Morrison and James Fletcher.

Horace Howe's Column

(Continued from Page 2)

have the difficulty anticipated by the daughter of the Richard Lusk, who thought Susan would be unable to get down the chimney of their new home.

Harry McLean, who has moved from New York, is occupying an apartment on Grant street for the winter. A 2nd floor!

Benjamin Gallant, for many years a resident of Westbrook, who for the past few years resided in Portland, has once again returned to Westbrook and is residing at 19 Day street.

Honestly, Pete (John Gaskill), when we have all unconsciously promised no long ago.

Contributions to the John Wheeler of Millinocket on the birth of a daughter on New Year's Day. It must have been early in the morning, as the new arrival has been named Dawn Helen. Mr. Wheeler is well known for his untiring efforts in behalf of Labor, besides being secretary of his local union and a vice-president of the State Federation of Labor.

Big Housing Project Started by N. Y. City

New York, N. Y., Jan. 7 (APL)—The New York City Housing Authority announced that a contract had been awarded for building Clason Point House, a public housing project in the Bronx.

The project, costing \$1,411,000, will differ from the other public housing projects in New York City in that it will consist of one and two-story dwellings rather than multi-story apartment houses. There will be 34 single family, one-story, houses and 40 two-story, two-family houses.

Gov. Sewall Favors Perfection of Present Maine Labor Laws

That part of Governor Sewall's message to the 1941 Legislature referring to Labor, white shirt, gives hope that he favors the perfection of some of the Labor laws on the statutes. How this is to be done, was not explained.

The governor's reference to Labor legislation was made during that part of his message in which he discussed vocational education, saying as follows:

"By practical recognition of present economic demands, we will prepare our young people to meet adequately the social demands of the future. By vocational training they will be better equipped to meet the needs of their productive years and provide for well-earned rest."

"Between these two groups—the old and the young, are the workers who must be educated the wealth to support all these governmental services. Certainly the welfare of this great group in the middle is our most vital concern."

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MANY BUILDING MATERIALS ARE LESS NOW DESPITE GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

R. B. DUNNING & CO.

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Branch at Portland, Maine

For Maine to go forward, our workers must have the opportunity to make a reasonable living under satisfactory conditions.

To this end, we have undertaken unemployment insurance, the re-employment service, workmen's compensation and industrial safety programs. Both legislative and administrative efforts will be required of us during the session to perform such undertakings.

These, it seems to me, are the outstanding human needs which must be recognized if our government is to be truly responsible.

Unionism Contributes Toward Better Safety, Says Safety Speaker

At the January meeting of employees of the Line and Cable Departments of the "Standard" Trusty Power and Light Company the following article on the value of unionism in safety was read by E. T. Emerson, safety director, with many years of experience:

"In a study made by the 1940 class in Personnel Management of the University of Toledo, a number of interesting observations were made. Unionism has caused improved safety in many labor turnover and more safety in highly unionized plants, according to surveys of 14 companies. In answer to the question, 'Does labor do more to solve problems?' this answer is given:

"Acquire through process of education a greater awareness of the economic problems facing the management of business. Industry itself has caused improved safety in many labor turnover and more safety in highly unionized plants, according to surveys of 14 companies. In answer to the question, 'Does labor do more to solve problems?' this answer is given:

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H. S. TAYLOR

PHARMACIST
ANSON, MAINE

Social Security

By ALBERT N. TARDIF

IN RHAMALL STREET PORTLAND, MAINE

Any reader of The Labor News may secure, without cost, answers to questions relating to Social Security by addressing questions to the above-named writer. The questions will be answered through this column. Only initials will be used. If a direct personal reply is desired, enclose a 3-cent stamp with your address upon it.

Prospect of expanding the coverage of the Social Security Act at this session of Congress has been a bright spot for many groups not within the scope of the act will be brought under the law. One large group under consideration is a difficult problem. These are municipal employees. In many cities, these groups already have the protection of some pension plan, and have been exempted from Social Security coverage by existing municipal pension plans.

The question has arisen: What will be done with trust funds which have been set aside for these pensions? The problem is complicated. There appears to be no simple answer. However, these groups may remain in control of local citizens, and will not be transferred elsewhere.

If you have been working for a private employer and have recently gone to work for Uncle Sam under civil service, did you ask yourself what will happen to your Social Security rights? This, too, is a complicated question. But the Social Security Board does not seek to escape such problems just because they are difficult. Chairman Alton B. Parker has announced that the problem is being studied by the Board's experts, and has assured that their interests will be safeguarded.

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Greetings From The

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ANSON, MAINE

Housing Conditions for Defense Workers Pictured as Appalling as Result of Nation-Wide Survey

The most shocking story yet told of very bad housing conditions among the nation's defense workers was printed a few days ago by the conservative New York Times. More than a page of space was needed to present even a partial picture.

"That publication conducted a nation-wide survey, which, it said, disclosed a 'tremendous' housing shortage at key points from which the nation must receive defense materials. Workers, it says, are being required to pay fantastic rentals for shoddy flats that are unfit for human beings."

Real estate interests which are taking advantage of the workers' and the nation's necessities, the Times said, are energetically opposing housing programs, being more interested in present exorbitant profits than in the immediate need of guns, planes, tanks and ships.

At Hartford, Conn., where airplanes, machine tools and small arms are being manufactured, investigators found that 14,000 additional workers will be needed next year, but already "you can't get a rent anywhere."

At Bridgeport, Conn., workers in machine tool, shell casings, airplane and small arms plants are committing daily from homes as far away as New York

as they are in the front several hours daily. In Detroit, rents have been boosted 10 to 15 per cent and there is demand for a state law curbing profiteering landlords.

The navy yard at Portsmouth, Va. was said to be losing 150 workers a day because men could not find decent places for their families to live.

By June next, they'll be sleeping in the streets, says the report from Seattle, where airplanes and naval vessels are being constructed.

Auto courts are jammed and portable houses and dormitories are being called for at San Diego, where airplane plants are located.

Somewhat similar conditions were said to exist at practically all centers of defense production. On one point the Times was emphatic—that if new housing is to be provided, the government must build them. Private real estate interests, it said, are not interested in defense. In many cases they actively oppose any suggestion that Congress has provided \$200,000,000 for defense housing, but that the projects are still in the blueprint stage.

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Supreme Court Decides Employers Must Sign Agreements With Unions

tract embodying the terms of the agreement. The board supports its order directing petitioners, on request of the union, to sign a written contract embodying the terms agreed upon on the ground, among others, that a refusal to sign is a refusal to bargain in the meaning of the act.

PURPOSE OF ACT
"In support of this contention, it points to the history of the collective bargaining process showing that its object has long been an agreement between employer and employee to fix wages, hours and working conditions evidenced by a signed contract. The statement in writing, which serves as both recognition of the union with which the agreement is reached and as a permanent memorial of its terms, has been a part of the bargaining process from the beginning."

"This experience has shown that refusal to sign a written contract has been a not infrequent means of frustrating the bargaining process through the refusal to recognize the labor organization as a party to it and the refusal to provide an authentic record of its terms which could be exhibited to employees as evidence of the good faith of the employer. Such refusal has proved fruitful source of dissimulation and disagreement."

"Contracting with the national statement of the employee of his labor policy, the signed agreement has been regarded as the effective instrument of stabilizing labor relations and preventing, through collective bargaining, strikes and industrial strife."

RECORD OF EXPERIENCE

"Before the enactment of the National Labor Relations Act, it had been the settled practice of the administrative agencies dealing with labor relations to treat the signing of a written contract embodying a wage and hour agreement as the final step in the bargaining process. Congress, in enacting the National Labor Relations Act, followed the record of this experience."

"We think that Congress, in thus

Fleming Answers Sloan

"Which is the more efficacious an eight per cent increase for the workers or profits almost half as much?" Sloan asked. Col. Philip B. Fleming's answer to Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., chairman of General Motors Corporation, who recently had urged that "the penalty for overtime be cancelled during the war," was that the workers are still in the blueprint stage.

"Your government wants another work-week added to the performance of products and another eight hours added to the performance of workers."

Wall Asks Support For National League for Human Rights

New York City, Dec. 24 (APL).—Matthew Wall, vice-president of the A. F. of L., has asked the League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy, by forming local branches throughout the country to fight intolerance.

The League seeks to become the spearhead of the labor movement in its "persistent campaign to defend labor's rights, use civil liberties and democratic order against the subversive forces of intolerance."

Wall declared in his appeal to subscribers that the League is a national organization of the kind that has been destroyed by the totalitarianism, and outlined a series of steps leading to the formation of a local branch of the League by the Central Labor Bodies.

The League for Human Rights, Freedom and Democracy was organized in 1931 by some of labor's most important leaders and organizations as a protest against the persecution of minorities and anti-semitic excesses of the totalitarian regime. National officers are: President, Honorable Jeremiah T. Maloney, treasurer.

Railroad Chiefs Urged

The campaign will be given further headway when the Railway Labor Executive Association meets with carrier spokesmen in Washington today (Friday) to take up the question of joint action to obtain defense contracts for the fall season.

"FARMING OUT" URGED

The War Department took steps to break the defense output "bottleneck" by making a positive request to the manufacturers to "farm out" part of their

defense contracts to small plants about the country.

Such "farming out" could readily include railroad shops, which are well equipped to handle defense work.

There is no time to be lost in the fight to get the defense production program into normal production, or to this vital new production program, which will be given full utilization in normal production, or to this vital new production program, which will be given full utilization in normal production.

As the men and women workers now given intensive training and now being urged to achieve the utmost in their technical ability to give an opportunity to make a full contribution to the post-war production of the nation, or to this vital new production program, which will be given full utilization in normal production.

Author of the article is Boris Shalom, American Federation of Labor economist.

Facing the Facts

(Continued from Page 1)

pointed out that this plan makes necessary intensive publicity campaign. It permits labor and industry to work out their common problems in a reasonable and sensible way to the utmost freedom and without Government interference. That is the way of democracy.

THE PRESS
Because the comments from the press were so enlightening and laterally so helpful to the cause of the workers, it is not surprising that the press has been so helpful to the cause of the workers.

NEW TIMES
The chief officers of labor international unions in the metal trades affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have adopted a declaration of policy that there must be no strike in the metal trades.

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ated steps had failed. The method of democracy applied to the national emergency is the union officials' decision to let the public spirited plan be applied to the national emergency.

Accretions to let nothing interrupt or hinder production for defense are the only way to let nothing interrupt or hinder production for defense.

MORE LAUDATORY COMMENTS
Washington Post—In offering a realistic plan for dealing with the strike and lockout problem, the metal trades union are seeking to forestall direct government action that might seriously impair their freedom of action, as well as that of employing industries. They are trying to apply the methods of democracy to a national emergency.

At the same time the plan permits the unions to rely upon the aid of their own members. If their own efforts should prove unavailing, the plan has the further advantage of being applied to all representative unions, whether they be affiliated with the A. F. of L., the C. I. O. or an independent group. The plan in short is well suited to the cause of industrial democracy.

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how we can see why it is necessary to have hand holding back millions of gallons of water.

Nearly all material for construction will be hauled by truck and tractor from the town of Putnam to Grand Lake by a company of C. I. O. men, a distance of 45 miles to the first job and 45 miles to Teledyne. The work on both dams is expected to be completed about October 1941.

Brother Brown is a patient at the Deaconess Hospital in Boston, receiving treatment for a spinal injury which was sustained while on observation at the Loyal Clinic several times last summer until specialists at that institution concluded an operation was necessary. This was performed on December 20, and his reports were very favorable.

Brother John Farmer suffered a painful and near-fatal accident on January 3 while at work on the waste pile. A four-foot stick was suddenly dropped in some way, striking Brother Farmer in the face.

After first-aid treatment in the Loyal Clinic, Brother Farmer was taken to the Eastern Maine General Hospital in Bangor, where it was necessary to remove the stick from his face and hand. He also received a broken nose which was set on the side of his head.

Brother "Moon" Sullivan is expected to be back to work in a few days after being laid up with a broken bone in his ankle. "Moon" says that he is just getting used to hobbling around on crutches now and thinks he will be them around the paper machine when he gets back to work.

And now just a word to the subscribers to The Labor News Here. Four years ago next month, this correspondence just got started; three years ago next month, this correspondence just got started; three years ago next month, this correspondence just got started.

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"Dummy" cards in the rack, and keep those actually used a secret. But all three must be used in the work.

Mr. Shannon and his staff are wise to all of them. What more is to be said? Mr. employees to remember there is a provision in the law which protects any employee who institutes action against his employer. Charging him with violation of the act. The law especially protects them from discharge or discrimination because of starting any proceeding under the act.

Mr. Shannon's restriction is beginning to spread. Employers have come to his office voluntarily and asked him to restrict their work. Mr. Shannon received a letter from a right to recover twice the amount of unpaid minimum overtime wages. Mr. Shannon received a letter from a right to recover twice the amount of unpaid minimum overtime wages.

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